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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,325	09/29/2003	Andrew R. Ferlitsch	J-SLA.1264	4659
55428	7590	07/17/2007	EXAMINER	
ROBERT VARITZ			HANG, VU B	
4915 SE 33RD PLACE				
PORTLAND, OR 97202				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/17/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/674,325	FERLITSCH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vu B. Hang	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09/29/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/29/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doyle (US Patent 6,381,696 B1).
3. Regarding **Claim 1**, Doyle discloses a method for obscuring data files which are created in the context of cooperative interaction between at least two computing devices in relation to the handling of a document file (see Fig.1, Fig.3A and Col.4, Line 6-22), where such interaction and handling include job-file data transit activities conducted in a transit zone which is operatively interposed the computing devices (see Fig.3A and Col.7, Line 29-41), the method comprising locating and identifying within such zone (see Fig.2A and Col.4, Line 56-67), each data file at least at a point in time which lies in a time span that is beyond the end of that file's utility (see Fig.2A (2010,2020,2030) and Col.4, Line 56-67), and before any destructive alteration takes place with respect to the file (see Fig.2A (2010,2020,2030) and Col.8, Line 36-50). Doyle fails to expressly disclose that the data file is relative to non-volatile media, by-product, spool-associated data files, and applying random bit mask-obscuring process to the data file following the locating and identifying, and during a specific time span.
4. Doyle, however, teaches that the method for obscuring the data file can be implemented in a general-purpose computer or server in a client server environment (see Fig.3A and Col.5, Line 39-44), as well as in software or firmware (see Col.6, Line 61-64). Doyle further discloses

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encrypting the data file at a point in time which lies in a time span that is beyond the end of that file's utility, and before any destructive alteration takes place with respect to the file (see Fig.2A (2010,2020,2030), Col.4, Line 56-67 and Col.8, Line 36-50). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to implement the data file obscuring method on a data file that is relative to non-volatile media, by-product, spool-associated data files. The motivation would be to protect the access to the contents of a print job file. The file contents may contain sensitive information that may require authorized access. The data file obscuring would provide a security mechanism for the print file. It is further obvious to apply a specific encryption method, such as random bit masking, to the data files. The motivation would be for preference reasons. The design may prefer a specific a specific encryption method as a design choice.

5. Regarding **Claim 2**, Doyle further discloses the applying involves the recurrent application of plural, successive, different, encryption to the file (see Fig.2A (2010,2020,2030), Col.4, Line 56-67 and Col.8, Line 36-50).

6. Regarding **Claims 4-6**, Doyle further teaches that the method for obscuring the data file can be implemented on a device firmware (see Col.6, Line 61-64). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to apply the encryption process at the print processor or raster image processor. The motivation would be to encrypt the print data for security purposes.

7. Regarding **Claims 7, 9 and 14**, Doyle further discloses the data file resides on the computing device side of the transit zone (see Fig.3A and Col.5, Line 39-44).

8. Regarding **Claims 8, 10 and 15**, Doyle further discloses the data file resides on the imaging device side of the transit zone (see Fig.3A, Col.5, Line 39-44 and Col.6, Line 61-64).
9. Regarding **Claims 11 and 12**, Doyle further teaches the data file is an encrypted file (see Col.4, Line 56-67).
10. Claims 3 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doyle (US Patent 6,381,696 B1) in view of Bennett et al. (US Patent 5,664,186).
11. Regarding **Claim 3**, Doyle teaches the method for obscuring data files as described in Claim1 but fails to disclose the data files include files in the categories of ghost and shadow files. Doyle, however, teaches that the method for obscuring the data file can be implemented in a general-purpose computer or server in a client server environment (see Fig.3A and Col.5, Line 39-44), as well as in software or firmware (see Col.6, Line 61-64). Bennett teaches using the shadow files as a means for backing up an existing data file during the process of updating the existing file (see Col.5, Line 18-39). At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to implement the data file obscuring method on a shadow file or ghost file. The motivation would be to protect the data contents from the original data file from unwanted access. The ghost or shadow files are likely to contain sensitive data contents from the original data file. Therefore, the data file obscuring would provide a security mechanism for the original data file.
12. Regarding **Claim 3**, Doyle teaches the method for obscuring data files as described in Claim1 but fails to disclose the controlling activities is engaged by one of a print processor and a raster image processor, which the processor also performs the additional function of file-locking in a manner assuring the controlling role for the processor in relation to the data file obscuring. Doyle, however, teaches that the method for obscuring the data file can be implemented on a

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device firmware (see Col.6, Line 61-64) and encrypting the data file at different stages in the data transmission process to ensure the data contents cannot be accessed and tampered (see Col.2, Line 3-20 and Col.4, Line 56-67). Bennett teaches a mechanism for file locking a data file in a manner assuring the controlling role for a processor in relation to the processing of a data file (see Col.6, Line 31-41 and Col.10, Line 28-36). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to apply the encryption process at the print processor or raster image processor. The motivation would be to encrypt the print data for security purposes. It is further obvious to allow the processor to perform the function of file locking in a manner assuring the controlling role for the processor in relation to the data file obscuring. The motivation would be to enable the processor to encrypt the print data with its own cryptography. This would ensure the print data contents cannot be accessed and tampered.

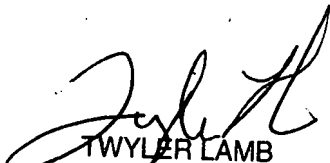
Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vu B. Hang whose telephone number is (571) 272-0582. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm.

14. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler M. Lamb can be reached on (571) 272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

15. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Vu Hang
Assistant Examiner



TWYLLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER